

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

January 29, 2009

Members Present:

Ken Booth, Carl Brunetti, Sheila Chisholm, Bob Ericson, Hagop Jawharjian, Claudette Lussier and Joe Renning.

Members Absent:

Cheryl Ethier, Roberta Gosselin, Greg Leonard and Linda Noble.

Also in attendance: Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond; Town Council Members John Flynn and Keith Macksoud, Superintendent Georgia Fortunato; School Committee members Elizabeth Black Robson, Kristine Donabedian, Tracey Cavanaugh, Mary Anne Roll and Julie Zito; School Department Business Manager Lori Miller; Representatives from the Certified and Non-Certified Unions; and Dean Lees.

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM by Chairman Ken Booth.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

January 15, 2009 minutes were not available for review.

Correspondence

Chairman Booth noted that Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond sent him a copy of the letter that was sent to the School Department. He will forward an electronic copy to all members.

Public Comment

No one asked to be recognized.

Old Business

Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget Adjustments

• Chairman Booth invited Town Administrator Almond to give an update on Governor Carcieri's proposed supplemental budget adjustments and the impact this will have on the current budget and the FY10 budget. He stressed that there is a "level of urgency" to address these proposed adjustments "that must be shared by both the municipal and the school side." He also discussed the 'federal stimulus package' and the town's submittal of its 'shovel ready' projects. He asked for the Budget Board's patience and cooperation as it deliberates the proposals and recommendations. Although he plans to submit a budget proposal which complies to the timelines in the Town Charter, he warned that it will likely be revised as the terms of the supplemental budget adjustments become adopted or rejected by the state legislature.

- **Chairman Booth invited School Committee Chairperson Robson to give an update from the School Department's perspective. She expressed the Committee's frustration with proposing a budget when there are so many uncertainties in the current year as well as in the upcoming fiscal year.**
- **Chairman Booth conceded that this budget process would be difficult for all and he reiterated the Budget Board's willingness to work cooperatively.**

2009 Financial Town Meeting

- **Town Administrator Almond reaffirmed that his office will be hosting several Town Hall-style meetings to make certain that the taxpayer is well informed with regards to the proposed budget for FY10.**
- **Town Administrator Almond invited the Budget Board to attend a Town Council work session that would be addressing 'rules' for the upcoming Financial Town Meeting.**
- **Bob Ericson suggested that the town website be set-up to accept taxpayer input of ideas and suggestion for the FTM.**

A brief recess was called.

New Business

- **None was discussed.**

Public Comment

Dean Lees voiced his opinion that the Almond administration was not addressing the high hazard dam repairs. He suggested that the Budget Board include the necessary funds to conduct a thorough

study of the situation in the upcoming budget.

Chairman Booth will request an update on the status of all dams.

Dean Lees also questioned the municipal 'legal service' line.

Adjourn

Joe Renning made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sheila Chisholm. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

cjl

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:30PM.